

THE GULL



CAN YOU HELP?

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, the Sierra Club Bay Chapter, the Save San Francisco Bay Association, and CALM need your help in a desperate effort to save the last remaining wetland habitat in Alameda County and a critical element of the Pacific Flyway.

We have brought a law suit against the powerful Port of Oakland to require due process under the applicable laws and to assure preservation of important wetland areas or suitable mitigation as replacement for areas developed.

As everyone knows, lawyers cost money. There is some money already available in our sanctuary fund, but we anticipate a greater need. The Board has set up a special fund and is seeking your help to assure that we are able to afford the costs as they come up. Wildlife habitat is irreplaceable and there is little enough of it left. Please help by contributing to the Legal Action Fund. Use the coupon on page 151, if you wish. Save your own piece of the Oakland Airport's wetland!

FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

Saturday, December 6—Monterey Bay and Coastal Areas. See November *Gull* for details.

Sunday, December 7—Tomales Bay. See November *Gull* for details.

Wednesday, December 10—Mini-trip to Lake Merritt. Meet at the Rotary Science Center at 9:30 a.m. Leave Grand Ave. at Bellevue. Follow Bellevue to where it ends at the Rotary Science Center. This is a good opportunity to review ducks. Lunch optional. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Delpha deTimofeev and Ruth Voss (535-8032).

Saturday, December 13—Bolinas Lagoon. Meet at 8:30 a.m. along Hwy. 1 at turnoff to Bolinas at the north end of the lagoon. (This is north of the town of Stinson Beach.) Bring lunch, scopes, raingear and high boots suitable for wet conditions. We will bird Bolinas Lagoon, the Pine Gulch Creek area and the Duxbury Reef overlook. We may see as many as 80 species. Leader: Richard Ives (707) 996-2731. (✓)

Saturday, January 3—Palo Alto Baylands. Take Highway 101 south to Palo Alto, exit at Embarcadero and drive east toward the yacht harbor and the Baylands Refuge until you reach the duck pond on the left just beyond the Palo Alto Airport. Meet at the east end of the pond at 9 a.m. Bring lunch, scopes and clothes appropriate for rain and mud. We should see waterfowl, rails and shorebirds. Leader: Dan Murphy (564-0074). (✓)

Carpooling arrangements can be

made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge at 236-7022 and leave a message. She will contact you.

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

CONTROVERSIAL!

The January membership meeting in San Francisco, as usual at the Josephine Randall Junior Museum on Museum Way, is scheduled for 7:30 on Thursday, Jan. 8th. Tom White, program chairman, promises an interesting and controversial discussion. The GGAS board of directors has debated whether to sponsor discussion of falconry and has put the question off several times for further thought. It was at length decided to present a program with a falconer and an opponent of falconry, so that the issues could be explored in a thoughtful way. Decisive in the conclusion reached was the suggestion that falcon handlers are deeply interested in their birds and knowledgeable about them; this is an opportunity to hear what they have to say, and to learn more about the issues.

Come with an open mind and participate in a forum on a significant subject. This is the year of the raptor.

See *THE GULL* for January for further details about the meeting. We will publish the map again for the benefit of East Bay members who may be visiting the Randall Museum for the first time.

OCTOBER OBSERVATIONS

September 24 through October 28

A Purple what? In Fremont? Northern California birders strike again with another second-record-for-the-State bird (you'll have to wade on for the details). Mostly calm and variable weather provided the coast with good vagrant hunting, landbird fallout roughly corresponding to SE Farallon Island waves of Sept. 22-24, Oct. 2-5, 10-13, and 20-23. (All SE Farallon Island information courtesy PRBO.) The mainland had a few additional "good" weekends Sept. 27-28 and Oct. 25-26.

Tubenoses

A Gadfly Petrel (considered to be either Cook's or Stejneger's) was seen in the Gulf of the Farallones Oct. 26 (TJ). Four Flesh-footed Shearwaters were found on pelagic trips out of Monterey from Sept. 27 through October 12 (SJ), and three were viewed in the Cordell Banks area October 19 (PA). Buller's Shearwaters were seen on most pelagic trips during the period, with a high count of 2000 out of Monterey Oct. 2 (SJ, BGh, TJ), matching fall 1982 records; 14 were seen from shore at Santa Cruz Sept. 29 (DLSu). Five Short-tailed Shearwaters were spotted on Monterey pelagic trips (SJ, JML), and four were found near the Cordell Banks (PA) from Oct. 5-18. Black-vented Shearwaters were reported in low numbers: 113 on Sept. 25 and two on Sept. 29 from the shore at Santa Cruz (DLSu); out of Monterey one on Oct. 12 and twenty-two on Oct. 25 (SJ), and one in the Gulf of the Farallones Oct. 26 (TJ). Four Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen on three Monterey pelagic trips during the period (SJ). Single Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were found Sept. 25, 27, and Oct. 12 on Monterey pelagic trips, and

another was seen Oct. 12 near the Cordell Banks (SJ). A Storm-Petrel flock of 6000 in the Monterey area on Oct. 12 included two Least Storm-Petrels (SJ).

Egret through Hawks

A Cattle Egret appeared at Lake Merritt Oct. 23 (TC). A Greater White-fronted Goose arrived at SE Farallon Sept. 25, for the second Island record, and Pt. Reyes had one at Abbott's Lagoon Sept. 25 (RO), which was joined by two others Sept. 27 (DDK). Another was found at Horseshoe Pond the same day (DDK), and two others were at Spaletta Ponds Oct. 8 (DW). Forty-three Wood Ducks at Lagunitas Creek, Marin Co. October 21 must have been a beautiful sight (GFe). The first Eurasian Wigeon to be reported this fall was at the Palo Alto Flood Control Basin Sept. 23 (DLSu). A Harlequin Duck was at Andrew Molera State Park Sept. 27 (PEG), a male was at Rodeo Lagoon Oct. 19 (CLF), and two females were at Richmond Inner Harbor Oct. 19 (NS). Four Broad-winged Hawks (which included one dark-phased bird) were seen from Hawk Hill at the Marin Headlands Sept. 28 (RS). Another was spotted there Sept. 29 (DDK), and one was seen from UC Santa Cruz Campus the same day (DLSu). About one per day was noted Oct. 1-7 at the Marin Headlands (CLF).

Gallinule through Murrelets

An immature Purple Gallinule found its way to Lake Elizabeth in Fremont Oct. 17 (AH) and continued to delight birders from up and down the state at least through Oct. 27 (MFe, MP, mob). The only other record of Purple Gallinule in California was of an injured bird found at Point Loma, San Diego Co. Oct. 1, 1961.

Twenty-five Mountain Plovers were at Davis Sewage Ponds Sept. 28 (TCo); more surprising was a single individual

at the Salinas River Mouth Oct. 3 (PJM). A Solitary Sandpiper was seen at Abbott's Lagoon Sept. 26 (DDK), and another visited Lodi Sewage Ponds Oct. 11-13 (DGY). One Sharp-tailed Sandpiper was found at Sunnyvale Sewage Ponds Sept. 30 (PLN); Limantour Natural Area had two Oct. 3 (MDa) with one remaining to Oct. 5 (BDP); and one continued to be seen at the Moonglow Dairy, Monterey Co., through Sept. 27 (PEG, MS). A Stilt Sandpiper was found at Abbott's Lagoon Sept. 24 (ASH). Single Ruffs put in appearances as follows: Abbott's Lagoon Sept. 25-28 (DDK, JM, RMS, DW); Abbott's Lagoon Oct. 10-11 (DAH, SP); Moonglow Dairy Sept. 27 (MS), and Salinas Sewage Ponds Oct. 3-5 (EG, PGo, et al.). An immature Franklin's Gull was at the Stockton Sewage Ponds Oct. 28, and an adult Little Gull was present Oct. 14-28 (DGY). Two Craveri's Murrelets were found on a Monterey pelagic trip Sept. 27, and one was seen Oct. 12 near the Cordell Banks (SJ).

Cuckoo through Swallows

A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was seen at Andrew Molera State Beach Oct. 2-5 (DGe, et al.). A **Chuck-will's-widow**, representing the first record for California, was found injured on a street in Half Moon Bay Oct. 16, and died Oct. 20 (*fide* SFB). An adult male **Broad-billed Hummingbird** was at Ano Nuevo State Reserve Oct. 19 (MCM). An unidentified immature female hummingbird which reached SE Farallon Sep. 12 has since been identified as the Island's second record of **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**.

Acorn Woodpeckers in surprising places were single birds at Pt. Reyes Lighthouse (HG, JMacC, et al.) Lincoln Park (DPM) Oct. 4, and at Nunes Ranch Oct. 25 (MW). A Red-naped Sapsucker at Jasper Ridge Biological

Preserve in Santa Clara County Oct. 5 (BC1, *fide* DLSu) may be the same bird which wintered there last year. A Least Flycatcher was at the Lighthouse Sept. 28 (JM, et al.), another was identified there Oct. 4 (JMacC, JMS, et al.), and one visited SE Farallon Oct. 23. An Eastern Phoebe at SE Farallon Oct. 19-21 was the sixth record for the Island. Five Tropical Kingbirds were seen during the period: near Abandoned Ranch Sept. 28 (AG, WG, et al.), near the Fish Docks Oct. 1 (DW), Drake's Beach Oct. 12-17 (JM, ASH), Highway 1 in Bodega Bay Oct. 24 (RS, *fide* BDP), and Rodeo Lagoon Oct. 25 (BDP). A Purple Martin at Llano Sewage Ponds Sept. 27 was rather late (RoM, NTC, KFC), and a Bank Swallow at SE Farallon Oct. 10 was the latest Island record.

Corvids through Vireos

Clark's Nutcrackers continued their surprising sojourns to the coast, with one over the Marin Headlands Oct. 4, and another Oct. 15 (AMF, CLF), one at SE Farallon Oct. 8-12 (a fourth Island record), one along Pierce Pt. Road, Pt. Reyes Oct. 11-14 (SS, JMcC, KSW), and one along the Mt. Wittenberg Sky Trail Oct. 21 (JDe, *fide* GFe). A **Sedge Wren** frustrated observers by skulking in the ice plant at Ft. Funston, San Francisco Oct. 23-24 (DDK, et al.). An American Dipper was seen at Lake Temescal Oct. 14 (JEd), and another was at Las Trampas Creek in Lafayette Oct. 28 (MS). A **Gray-cheeked Thrush** arrived at SE Farallon Sept. 26, for the ninth Island record.

A **Red-throated Pipit** visited SE Farallon Sept. 24-27 (a third Island record). The mainland was graced with **three** others: one at Pt. Reyes Spaletta Plateau Oct. 6-11 (DDK, SP, SSc), two there on Oct. 7 (DAH), and one at the Moonglow Dairy Oct. 13-18 (JMD,

DR). A **Sprague's Pipit** was at SE Farallon Oct. 10-11 (a second Island record). A Bohemian Waxwing was found in a residential area in El Granada, San Mateo Co. Oct. 22 (BS). A Solitary Vireo of the eastern race was seen at the Lighthouse Oct. 5 (DSr). A *Philadelphus* Vireo visited Drake's Beach Sept. 27 (ALE, GB, PAW). A Red-eyed Vireo stopped at the Lighthouse Sept. 23 (RS), and a "Yellow-green" Vireo was identified at the Little Sur River Mouth Oct. 3 (JML).

Vagrant Warblers

The following table of warblers lists 106 individuals of 18 species. By combining this with last month's totals we have 208 individuals of 23 species. This is the best fall vagrant season since 1979, when total individuals reached 479 of 23 species.

Tennessee Warbler (total 6; 15 for fall)		
2 Pt. Reyes Lighthouse	Sept. 23; Oct. 11	RS; SS
1 Mendoza	Sept. 24	RS
1 Nunes	Sept. 28	JM
2 SE Farallon	Oct. 20-21	PRBO
Chestnut-sided Warbler (total 4; 11 for fall)		
2 Pt. Reyes Mendoza Lighthouse, Nunes, New Willows	Sept. 24 Oct. 12	RS DAH, mob
1 Five Brooks	Sept. 27-28	DSr, RMS
1 SE Farallon	Oct. 13-14	PRBO
Magnolia Warbler (total 4, 14 for fall)		
1 Pt. Reyes Lighthouse Nunes, New Willows	Oct. 12	DAH, mob
3 SE Farallon	Oct. 12-19	PRBO
Cape May Warbler (total 1)		
1 SE Farallon	Oct. 11	PRBO
Black-throated Blue Warbler (total 4, 5 for fall)		
1 Salinas, city park	Oct. 1	<i>fide</i> JML
1 SE Farallon	Oct. 11-14	PRBO
2 Pt. Reyes Nunes	Oct. 16-17	GFi, RS, ASH
Blackburnian Warbler (total 2, 3 for fall)		
1 Inverness	Sept. 27	RS
1 SE Farallon	Oct. 10	PRBO
Yellow-throated Warbler (total 1)		
1 SE Farallon	October 22 (fifth Island record)	PRBO

Prairie Warbler (total 6, 8 for fall)		
3 Pt. Reyes Lighthouse	Sept. 23-24; Oct. 21	RS, SP AG
1 SE Farallon	Oct. 10-12	PRBO
1 Ft. Funston	Oct. 22	ASH
1 Bodega Bay Sewage	Oct. 25	RS, <i>fide</i> BDP
Palm Warbler (total 42)		
11 Pt. Reyes	Sept. 23-Oct. 25	mob
21 SE Farallon	Oct. 2-23	PRBO
2 Pine Gulch Creek	Sept. 27-28; Oct. 26	RMS JM
2 Marin Headlands	Oct. 3; 5	CLF;GH
2 Lincoln Park	Oct. 4; 11	DPM; JMD
1 Rodeo Lagoon	Oct. 10	GH
1 Ano Nuevo	Oct. 19	MCM
1 Pilarcitos Creek	Oct. 25	RTh
1 Bodega Bay Sewage	Oct. 25	RS
Bay-breasted Warbler (total 3)		
1 Rodeo Lagoon	Sept. 28	RS, et al.
2 Lincoln Park	Oct. 11	JMD
Blackpoll Warbler (total 14, 38 for fall)		
8 SE Farallon	Sept. 22-Oct. 15	PRBO
2 Pt. Reyes Drake's Nunes	Sept. 27 Sept. 28	DDK WEH
1 Rodeo Lagoon	Sept. 28	RS, et al.
1 Carmel River Mouth	Oct. 3	JML
1 Sunset State Beach, Santa Cruz	Oct. 5	DLSu
1 Lincoln Park	Oct. 13	ASH
Black-and-white Warbler (total 6, 8 for fall)		
1 Pt. Reyes Mendoza	Sept. 24	RS
1 Marin Headlands	Oct. 4	JMD
2 Stinson Beach Park	Oct. 5; 16-26	DAH, DW, JM
1 New Brighton St. Beach	Oct. 5	DLSu
1 SE Farallon	Oct. 10-12	PRBO
American Redstart (total 5, 25 for fall)		
5 Pt. Reyes Lighthouse Nunes	Sept. 23-24 Oct. 23 Oct. 12	RS, ASH ASH JM
Worm-eating Warbler (total 1)		
1 SE Farallon	Oct. 12	PRBO
(7th Island, first fall record)		
Ovenbird (total 2, 7 for fall)		
1 Pt. Reyes Road Forks	Sept. 27	MFe
1 SE Farallon	Oct. 12	PRBO
Northern Waterthrush (total 3, 9 for fall)		
2 SE Farallon	Sept. 23; 28	PRBO
1 Pine Gulch Creek	Oct. 2	RMS
Mourning Warbler (total 1, 6 for fall)		
1 SE Farallon	Oct. 20	PRBO
Canada Warbler (total 1, 3-4 for fall)		
1 Pt. Reyes Lighthouse	Sept. 23-24	RS, ASH

More Landbirds

A Summer Tanager was found in Capitola Sept. 23 (DLSu). Two Rose-

breasted Grosbeaks spent Sept. 23-27 at SE Farallon Island; one was seen at the Lighthouse Oct. 5 (DSr, et al.); another was at Stinson Beach Park Oct. 5 (DAH); and a male Rose-breasted was seen there Oct. 20, 26 (MLR, JM). SE Farallon had an Indigo Bunting Sept. 22-Oct. 11, and a **Painted Bunting**, a fifth Island record, Sept. 23.

A Cassin's Sparrow Sept. 22 represented SE Farallon's tenth record. An American Tree Sparrow was seen at the Lighthouse Oct. 5 (DSr, et al.). Six more Clay-colored Sparrows arrived in the area (making 10 for this fall): four at SE Farallon Sept. 21, 25, Oct. 12, 21; one at Bay Farm Island Oct. 8 (DDK); and one in Golden Gate Park Oct. 21-25 (ASH, MLR, et al.). Four Brewer's Sparrows reached SE Farallon Sept. 22-Oct. 8. A Vesper Sparrow was found at the Lighthouse Sept. 23 (RS), and another was at Neary's Lagoon Oct. 26 (DLSu). A **Le Conte's Sparrow** was a third record for SE Farallon Island Oct. 11-12. A "Gray-headed" Junco was seen at the Lighthouse Oct. 20 (DAH, DDK).

A McCown's Longspur flew about with the Horned Larks at Hayward Shoreline Park Oct. 17-24 (JSL, BR, AG, mob). To confuse the issue, there were also three Lapland and three Chestnut-collared Longspurs in the same fields. The Laplands, first reported October 23, remained through the period. The Chestnut-collared were present Oct. 14-18 (BR, et al.). Elsewhere, Lapland Longspurs were arriving in the usual places: SE Farallon saw seven Sept. 23-Oct. 20; Pt. Reyes fields had from one to five Oct. 5 through the period (DL, DAH, LSi, JM, mob). Two to three Chestnut-collared Longspurs were also being seen at Spaletta Plateau Oct. 5-15 (DL, RHa, mob). Three landed on SE

Farallon Oct. 20-23, and one was seen on a boat trip to the Cordell Banks Oct. 12 (SJ). Four Boblinks at SE Farallon Sept. 22-Oct. 22, one at Abbott's Lagoon Sept. 28 (RL, MBG), one at Road Forks Pool Oct. 4 (BDP), and one at Lake Elizabeth, Fremont Oct. 18-19 (AS, et al.) brings the fall total to 24. An Orchard Oriole was found at the Lighthouse Sept. 23 (RS). Small numbers of Red Crossbills began to arrive during the period: four at Lincoln Park Oct. 4-11 (DPM, JMD); three on the UC Santa Cruz campus Oct. 14 (DLSu), two at SE Farallon Oct. 20 (fourth Island record and Island high count), and several at the Fish Docks Oct. 23 (ASH).

Errata. In last month's column, the 60,000 Sooty Shearwaters seen from shore were off New Brighton State Beach. The Curlew Sandpiper was seen at Abbott's Lagoon.

Observers

Stephen F. Bailey, George Bing, Kurt F. Campbell, Bill Clark (BCI), Terry Coburn (TCO), Tom Condit, Nancy T. Conzett, Maryann Danielson (MDa), J. Mike Danzenbaker, John Deloso (JDe), Jim Edgar (JEd), Art L. Edwards, Richard A. Erickson, Carter L. Faust, Gary Fellers, Marc Fenner (MFe), George Finger (GFi), Alan M. Fish, Douglas George (DGe), Al Ghiorso, Wilma Ghiorso, Brad Goodhart (BGh), Philip E. Gordon, Peter Gottschling (PGo), Edward Greaves, Helen Green, Marguerite B. Gross, W. Ed Harper, Rob Hayden (RHa), Alice Hoch (AlH), David A. Holway, Alan S. Hopkins, George Hugenberg, Tom Johnson, Durrell D. Kapan, Jeri M. Langham, Robin Leong, Donna Lion, Mike J. Lippsmeyer, John S. Luther, John MacCormick, John McConnell, Roger Marlowe (RoM), Peter J. Metropoulos,

Mark C. Miller, Joseph Morlan, Daniel P. Murphy, Paul L. Noble, Robert Olvang, Pacific Adventures, Benjamin D. Parmeter, Michael Perrone, Steve Perry, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon Report thanks to Peter Pyle), Bob Richmond, Don Roberson, Mary Louise Rosegay, Barry Saupe, Steve Schaeffer, Debra L. Shearwater, Shearwater Journeys, Larry Silver (LSi), Dan Singer (DSr), Nicki Spillane, Jean Marie Spoelman, Rich Stallcup, Maury Stern, Robert M. Stewart, David L. Suddjian, Ron Thorn (RTh), Mike Wihler, Peter A. Willmann, Katherine S. Wilson, David Wimpfheimer, David G. Yee.

Please report observations to Northern California Rare Bird Alert: 528-0288.

—HELEN A. GREEN
Observations Editor
2001 Yolo Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94707

WINTER HUNGRY HUMMINGBIRDS

Recently a television program contained a suggestion, appropriate in some climate zones but inappropriate here, that hummingbird feeders should be taken in about now for the winter. This was to avoid encouraging migrating species to stay behind when they should follow their instincts and head for wintering grounds.

It is normal for many of the Anna's Hummingbirds, the common species of the Bay Area, to stay here the entire year. As the seasons advance there are progressively fewer plants in flower. Feeders can make it easier for residents to make it through the winter. Proper maintenance of the feeder is important. It should be cleaned and filled with fresh syrup at least weekly.

THE CHRISTMAS COUNT NEEDS YOU!

What better way to spend a day in December than counting birds in the Annual Christmas Bird Count? The Count combines fun with the gathering of important information on our bird populations. From daybreak to sunset, legions of birders will be combing redwood groves, peering into brush thickets, scanning mudflats and searching parks throughout the area.

You don't have to be an expert birder to participate; even beginners can help. It is habit-forming, and many return year after year. If you want to help phone a compiler for full information. If you haven't received your expected packet, also phone your compiler.

OAKLAND: Sunday, Dec. 21 is the important day and the compilers are Chris Swarth (763-6068) and Ruth Dement (527-7923). Lots of help is needed.

SAN FRANCISCO: Monday, Dec. 29 will be it with Dan Murphy (564-0074) and Alan Hopkins (664-0983).

POINT REYES: Saturday, Dec. 20 will be another good chance to be counted among the counters with compiler Irene Timossi (457-3613). Call her if you can help.

NOMINATIONS ARE IN ORDER

The Board selected Board member John Nutt as the chairman of the nominating committee and members are urged to call him (654-3336) with suggestions of names of people who might be considered for nomination. If you would consider serving, yourself, don't be shy, call John and discuss the responsibilities (and advantages) with him. If it appears that the same old names keep showing up it is of course because they are the people who keep accepting the tasks that need doing. Maybe it is your turn?

BACK YARD BIRDER

Is my face red?!? In my December, 1985 article, I recommended a book which is out of print (*Song Birds in Your Garden* by John K. Terres). My apologies to those of you who have been frustrated in your search for the book. You might find it in your library or at a used book sale. The major point of the book is the various means of attracting birds to your yard. Once you recognize the needs of birds different times of the year, it becomes a simple matter. In wintertime, e.g., birds need food sources (natural or your feeder), protective cover from storms and fresh water. In spring and summer birds require food and water as well as nesting materials and nesting places, including "seasoned" bird boxes.

Some people prefer not to lure birds with seed and hummingbird feeders. It is probably not necessary in our corner of California since we have a moderate climate with plentiful food sources. With some thought and planning, anyone can attract birds to his yard. In my area there are a number of natural plants which draw birds: goldfinches love thistles, Band-tailed Pigeons feast on the elderberries, various woodpeckers, chickadees, and nuthatches thrive on different kinds of oak trees, pine trees offer shelter and food for many, and poison oak is irresistible to many birds.

Knowing what kinds of birds prefer in the way of plants enables you to plan your garden. Fruit-eating species enjoy pyracantha, roses, dogwood, honeysuckle, mountain ash, privet, berries and fruit trees. Seed-eaters prefer grasses, alder, birch, fir and pine trees. Hummingbirds are drawn to red or pink flowers first, then yellow or white ones, so you could plant fuchsia, gladiola, jasmine, geranium, pellargonium, nasturtium, lilac, trumpet vine, poppies,

and petunias. Warblers and hummingbirds are fond of eucalyptus trees.

You will be doing birds a favor if you're not a fastidious gardener. Unraked leaves provide a wonderful habitat for insects enjoyed by towhees, thrashers and sparrows. Brush piles make wonderful hiding places as well as nesting sites for wrens, titmice, song sparrows, and wrentits. It's best not to use any chemical pesticides in your yard. Protein-eating birds should help control your insect and spider populations. Seed and fruit-eating birds are damaged when systemic pesticides are used and accumulate in the plants' tissues.

Sunset magazine has published several articles on planning your garden to attract birds. Your nurseryman should also be able to help. With a bit of reading and research you can certainly make your yard more enticing for the local birds.

I feed the birds in my area because it affords me an opportunity to study bird behavior at close hand. I like to see just what will be attracted as the seasons roll by. Whether you decide to be an organic bird feeder or to put out goodies is an individual matter. The fun is in the watching.

—MEG PAULETICH

SANDERLING ALERT

There likely will be more marked Sanderlings on our beaches and your reports of sightings will be more important. The Sanderling Project staff provided free transportation from the Oregon Dunes National Recreation area to Bodega, Morro Bay and Camp Pendleton for young birds. They were given individual color bands.

These transports form the heart of a new direction for the Project. How and why a young bird selects a given site

along the coast as its winter home is to be studied. Past efforts helped to show that adults—birds returning for their 2+ winter—rarely move from the site where they settled in their first south-bound migration. The behavior resembles the imprinting process and it is immensely important in determining how many birds ultimately use an area. Understanding this will better help guide conservation decisions about how to protect and manage shorebird wintering sites. Ultimately, the methods we are developing may even allow re-establishing birds in areas from which they have disappeared.

How can you help? Keep a sharp lookout for newly marked Sanderlings. Each "transplant" carries a combination of colored leg bands plus a green flag on the left leg. To make most use of a sighting we need the whole combination. The only colors used were green, orange, red, yellow and white. No blue was used for this group.

Second, the Project would welcome suggestions for places for a transfusion of marked birds. A willingness to monitor closely the fates of marked birds would be desirable. If you have reactions please send them along to the Sanderling Project, PO Box 247, Bodega Bay, CA 94923.

COLOR MARKED BROWN PELICANS

Sightings of color marked California Brown Pelicans reported to UC Davis researchers will aid in a study of their movements, migrations and interactions with man. Tags vary from plain aluminum bands to plastic leg markers in color. Each configuration has meaning. A good, accurate description of what is seen yields the most information. Please report 1) configuration

(what is on what leg), 2) color (and number if possible), 3) date and location of sighting, 4) the situation, 5) any comments that might be important (was the bird sick or injured, was it being a nuisance, etc.), 6) your name and address.

Please do not remove the tags or bands unless the bird is dead (please send the tags back so they can be checked for wear and longevity). If the bird is sick or injured and captured, notify the nearest Dept. of Fish and Game warden. If the bird is hooked, remove the hook and line carefully so as not to injure the bird or rip the pouch or skin. If the hook is imbedded in the skin push the barb through the skin and cut it off, then back the hook out.

Please report your sightings to Pelican Research Project, Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries, UC, Davis CA, 95616.

ALASKA— MONO LAKE BENEFIT

The two-week trip starting June 21 includes fjordlands and wilderness refuges in Kenai Peninsula, crossing Prince William Sound to Valdez, traveling the scenic highway to Glenallen and Matanuska Valley, and spending five days at Camp Denali in Denali National Park. Besides the city of Anchorage, the small towns of Homer, Seward and Valdez will be visited. The trip may be extended to Glacier Bay National Park and Juneau before returning home. The cost for the 14-day excursion is approximately \$2300 plus airfare, and the 5-day extension to Glacier Bay is about \$600. For full information, send a self-addressed, stamped legal-size envelope to: ALASKA '87, c/o M. Bennett, 2719 Marin Ave., Berkeley, 94708.

NEWS FROM THE RANCH

Audubon Canyon Ranch

Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach

(415) 383-1644

Wildlife Sanctuaries & Centers for Nature Education Under Joint Sponsorship of Golden Gate, Madrone, Marin and Sequoia Audubon Societies

Rick Baird, Chairman

At the annual meeting of ACR in October Rick Baird of the Sequoia Audubon Society was elected chairman to succeed Flora Maclise. Debi Ablin of Marin Audubon and Paul Ruby of the Golden Gate Chapter are first and second vice chairmen, respectively.

The board adopted a budget for the 1986-87 fiscal year of \$378,200 which includes a grant request of \$82,200 to the San Francisco Foundation.

The final word from Helen Pratt on the 1986 breeding season for herons and egrets was that the season started unusually early and was not as productive as past seasons.

The 21 breeding pairs of Great Blue Herons raised 1.17 chicks per pair, somewhat fewer than last year but not significantly so. However, the 98 breeding pairs of egrets (down from 113 pairs last year) raised only 1.13 young per pair. Pratt reported, "Egg and chick loss were both high and only 50 percent of the nesting attempts were successful."

A seasonal bonus was the discovery of a Black-shouldered Kite nest in the canyon.

The new docent classes at both the Bolinas Lagoon and Bouverie Audubon preserves are underway with 40 students enrolled in Marin and 30 in Sonoma. This new crop of naturalists will begin leading school tours in the spring.

Manager Skip Schwartz reported the continuing support of Chevron USA, this year in the form of a \$5000 grant, which will help with the five year

monitoring of both the Livermore and Olema marshes as an important part of their restoration. Monitoring is an element in marsh restoration often overlooked, Schwartz indicated, and Chevron's generosity will provide important information on what does and doesn't work in reconditioning marshes and how marshes are to be kept healthy.

On January 1, 1987, the BAP is sponsoring its First Annual Resolution Hike followed by a fine hot lunch of local delectables. Keep that promise to yourself to get closer to nature with two of Sonoma's best naturalists, John Peterson and Phyllis Ellman.

Two interesting classes will be held at the Bouverie Audubon Preserve in Sonoma in January.

Highlights of Lower Plants in the Valley of the Moon on Saturday, January 17, will provide excellent though somewhat mossy opportunities to learn about mushrooms, ferns and their allies with Glenn Keator.

On January 24 Chaparral Spring will acquaint you with the wonders of a plant community that comes to life in the winter. Don't miss the opportunity to learn from Phyllis Ellman and John Peterson, two of Sonoma's best field guides and teachers.

BAY AREA BIRD PHOTOGRAPHERS

This group meets on the first Wednesday of the month (January is the second Wed. and no July or Aug. meeting) at 7:30 at the Lucie Stern Baylands Interpretive Center in Palo Alto, co-sponsored by Santa Clara Valley Audubon and City of Palo Alto. Dues are \$10 and the group publishes a newsletter. For information write BABP at 1019 Loma Prieta Ct., Los Altos, CA 94022.

THE COOPER SOCIETY

The speaker at the next meeting of the Cooper Ornithological Society will be Paul Dubowy of the UC Davis Zoology Dept. His subject will be Seasonal Variation in the structure of North American Duck Communities.

The meeting will be at UC Berkeley, Life Sciences Bldg., Room 2503, Monday, Dec. 1 at 8 p.m. preceded by a business session at 7:45. Everyone interested in birds is invited.

SAN FRANCISCO BAY BIRD OBSERVATORY

SFBBO can use your help as a volunteer if you have time and energy to contribute. Their tasks include analyzing specimens under a microscope in the laboratory, operating the computer in the office, slogging through the mud of the marshlands, walking the levee of a salt pond, or running a boat down one of the sloughs. They will tell you more about their needs if you will phone SFBBO at (408) 946-6458.

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THE GULL

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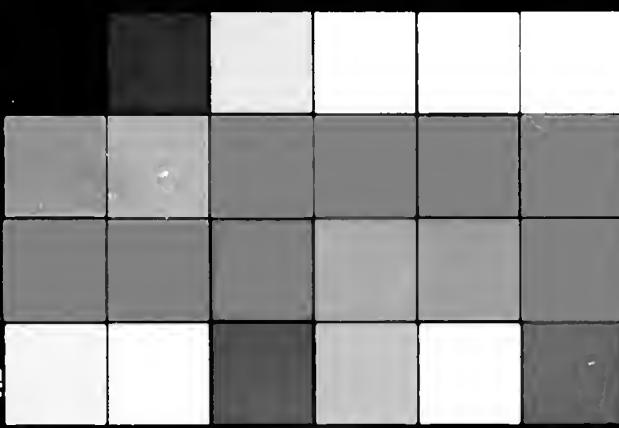
Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$8 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917,
and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.

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